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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
MARCH.



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1940.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my
Annual Report on the health of your district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.F.DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health:- J.F.Dawson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and)	
Sanitary Inspector.)	W.S.Pickett, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.,
		A.M.I.S.E., M.Inst.R.A.,
		M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector. P.McKenna, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	19,777
Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate, 1940)	13,470 X
Number of inhabited houses	3,800 X
Rateable Value	£50,086
Amount represented by ld. rate	£ 204 84, 2nd y

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births. Legitimate	147	67	80	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1940
Illegitimate	7	4	3	11.43
Stillbirths	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
				31.44
Deaths	125	66	59	Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 9.27

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	nil	nil
Other Puerperal Causes	nil	nil
Total	nil	nil

Deaths Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	57.32
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	60.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	18
" " Measles (all ages).	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	nil

Laboratory Facilities.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory examine specimens submitted for examination.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious Diseases are removed to hospital by the Wisbech Isolation Hospital Ambulance. Accident and other hospital cases are removed by the March Urban District Council Ambulance. These arrangements have proved adequate.

Since the commencement of the war, 7 vehicles have been fitted out as ambulances which will be used in the event of casualties occurring as the result of air raids.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is carried out by 5 district nurses.

Clinics.

Under the administration of the Isle of Ely County Council a Chest Clinic is held at the County Hall weekly. School Clinics are held regularly.

Hospitals.

There are no Hospitals voluntary or public in the District.

Air Raid Precautions.

As a result of the war there has been established a First Aid Post and a Mobile Unit, each in the charge of a Medical Officer. There are also two first aid points. These will deal with casualties resulting from air raids if such casualties occur in the district. The Mobile Unit will also deal with any casualties occurring in the North Witchford area.

Drainage & Sewerage.

The Ministry of Health hold plans for a proposed system of sewage disposal which were submitted by the Urban District in 1938. Until they are approved nothing can be done, and until the Urban District Council again approach the Ministry there is no possibility of the work commencing. Meantime the cost of carrying out this work is steadily rising.

Housing.

A number of houses have been requisitioned and are being used for accommodating evacuees.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

No. of Registered Cowshed Premises	23.
No. of Registered Dairy Premises	31.

The cowshed and dairy premises in this district were frequently inspected during the year. In a number of cases it was found necessary to draw attention to the need for exercising greater care in maintaining these premises in a clean and wholesome condition. In a few cases it was also necessary to ask for certain structural improvements to be carried out. Most of these unsatisfactory conditions were remedied before the end of the year.

The volume of work connected with meat inspection was considerably increased during the year as a result of the system of centralised slaughtering which was introduced by the Ministry of Food. This scheme necessitated the closing of all slaughterhouses in the town with the exception of two which were requisitioned by the Ministry. Whilst the concentration of all slaughtering at these two slaughterhouses tended to facilitate the inspection of carcasses and organs, it is perhaps to be regretted that better provision was not made to render these premises more suitable for the increased work carried on there.

Number of Animals Inspected after Slaughter in 1940.

A total of 8999 animals were inspected after slaughter in 1940. It was found necessary to condemn 257 carcasses. In addition a very great number of organs and parts of carcasses were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Infectious Diseases.

There has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria compared with last year when 39 cases were recorded. No deaths occurred from this disease. With the co-operation of the parents it is possible to stamp out this disease. Publicity in every way has been given to the importance of parents having their children protected against Diphtheria. The Government has done everything with the exception of making immunisation compulsory. It is now up to the parents to co-operate in stamping out this disease, only 12.36% of the parents have consented to have their younger children (those between 1 and 5 years) protected, and it is during this period that Diphtheria takes its greatest toll of life. I appeal to parents to allow their children to be safeguarded against this disease.

The outbreak of Measles subsided without a death being recorded.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 684 or 30.21% of the March school children and 337 or 75.7% of the evacuees were immunised. Immunisation was carried out at the schools. The prophylactic used was Toxoid-Antitoxin Floccules (Suspension).

Only 12.36% or 71 mothers consented to have their pre-school age children immunised.

Table showing Incidence of Infectious
Disease during 1940.

(See attached Table "A")

TUBERCULOSIS.

(See attached Table "B")

TABLE "A" - NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1940.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Under 1.	Age Groups.												Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
			1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over			
Smallpox.	nil															
Scarlet Fever.	7			1	1			3	1	1				7		
Diphtheria.	18		1	1	1		4		2	3	4	3		18		
Enteric Fever.	nil															
Puerperal Pyrexia.	4										4					
Pneumonia.	nil															
Measles.	314	7	18	20	20	32	226	14	2	3	1		1	1	5	
Whooping Cough.	33	4	2	6	8	10	21	1		1						
Erysipelas.	4										1	1	2			
Cerebrospinal Fever.	2				1							1			2	

TABLE "B" SHOWING INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 								
1- 				1				1
5- 		2	1	1			1	1
15- 		3						
25- 	1	1			1			
35- 								
45- 	1				3			
55- 								
65 and upwards ...								
Totals.	2	6	1	2	4	-	1	2